

VZCZCXYZ0022
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0516 1541336
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 031336Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5008
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 3996
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2432
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1515
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0929
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2117
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 6208
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4424
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2399
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000516

SIPDIS

STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR KPAO PGOV ECON PREL SNAR EFIN CI

SUBJECT: CHILE MEDIA REPORT - JUNE 2

Leading Stories

¶1. Chilean health authorities have confirmed 313 cases of AH1N1. All dailies report on the search operations to locate the Air France commercial flight that disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean.

U.S.-Related News

¶2. In accordance to Chapter 19 of the Chile-U.S. FTA and the Environmental Cooperation Agreement, the Fifth Meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council and the Third Meeting of the Joint Committee is scheduled for July 1, 2009, in Washington D.C. (El Mercurio, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record, circ. 129,000, 6/1).

¶3. General Motors CEO in Chile, Julie Beamer, said that regardless of the company's situation in the United States GE will continue to supply spare parts and services for its vehicles in Chile (El Mercurio, 6/2).

Human Influenza

¶4. Public Health Institute (ISP, in Spanish) Director Ingrid Heitmann said that tests confirm that the strains of the AH1N1 virus found in Chile are identical to those circulating in other parts of the world, which means the virus has not mutated. Heitmann said that the urgent matter now is to determine if the virus is causing more severe symptoms (La Nacion, government-owned, editorially independent, circ, 4,200, 6/2).

Narcotics

¶5. The counternarcotics police at Santiago's international airport arrested a 26 year-old Argentine woman in transit to Spain. The woman was carrying two suitcases made from cocaine and plastic (El Mercurio, 6/2).

SIMONS